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Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004)

Note verbale dated 7 November 2005 from the Permanent Mission of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Committee

The Permanent Mission of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) concerning the non-proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, and has the honour to refer to the note verbale of 30 September 2005.

With regard to the information on the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela contained in the matrix reflecting the provisions of resolution 1540 (2004), the competent national bodies are currently preparing the relevant observations, which will be forwarded to the Committee as soon as they are received. However, additional information on the current situation of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in respect of the international conventions on terrorism, as well as on the establishment of a National Authority for the prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons, is attached (see annex).

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Annex to the note verbale dated 7 November 2005 from the Permanent Mission of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Committee

Current situation of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in respect of the international conventions on terrorism

1. Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts of Violence at Airports Serving International Civil Aviation, Supplementary to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation, signed at Montreal on 24 February 1988. Submitted to the competent national bodies for study.

2. Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, done at Vienna on 3 March 1980. Submitted to the competent national bodies for study.

3. Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Maritime Navigation, signed at Rome on 10 March 1988. The Office of the Legal Adviser of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has requested the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Energy and Oil, the Ministry of the Interior and Justice and the National Institute for Aquatic Areas (INEA) to submit their views on the matter.

4. Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf. Submitted to the competent national bodies for study.

5. Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purpose of Identification. Submitted to the competent national bodies for study.

National Authority of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela for the prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, in implementation of the provisions of article VII (4) of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, has taken the necessary steps at the domestic level to prepare a draft decree on the establishment of a relevant National Authority, which will be chaired by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and composed of the Ministry of the Interior and Justice, the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Light Industry and Trade, the Ministry of Heavy Industry and Mining, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources and the Ministry of Science and Technology, as well as the Venezuelan Military Industries Corporation (CAVIM) and the Venezuelan Association of Chemical Industries (ASOQUIM).

The National Authority will have an Executive Secretariat and an Advisory Council, which will be composed of the Ministry of Energy and Oil, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Agriculture and Land and any other representative of centralized or decentralized public agencies whose participation is deemed necessary by the National Authority.

The draft decree establishing the National Authority was approved by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, who decided to submit it to the President of the Republic. It is currently awaiting approval by the Head of State.

Once the National Authority has been established by means of a presidential decree, its members must immediately begin working to develop the legislative, penal and administrative measures necessary to ensure that the country complies fully with the provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention.